

## REMARKS

Applicants' attorney would like to thank the Examiner for careful consideration of this Application. Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Claims 13-19 have been withdrawn.

### Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2 and 6-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,337,391 to Clayton. Applicants traverse this ground of rejection.

It is well settled that in order for a prior art reference to anticipate a claim, the reference must disclose each and every element of the claim with sufficient clarity to prove its existence in prior art. Clayton discloses coating (i.e. layering) a siliceous solid with an organic titanium compound. According to the Office Action, since the coating takes place prior to bonding it to the organic polymer, the fillers (i.e. the siliceous solid and the organic titanium compound) are pre-reacted. Applicants respectfully traverse and submit that coating is not the equivalent of reacting. Coating a material does not result in a molecular change of the two substances in contact. However, a reaction, as claimed in the present invention, does involve a change in the molecular structure of the components. Accordingly, Applicants submit clearly that Clayton does not teach or suggest mixing a "pre-reacted" filler with a halobutyl elastomer. Thus, Clayton fails to disclose each and every element of the pending claims, and fails to anticipate the current claimed invention. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection is respectfully requested.

### Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-12 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,015,265 to Resendes et al. Applicants traverse this ground of rejection.

It is well settled that in order for a prior art reference to anticipate a claim, the reference must disclose each and every element of the claim with sufficient clarity to

prove its existence in prior art. Applicants submit Resendes et al. fails to anticipate the present invention. Applicants resubmit their previous arguments in their entirety.

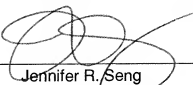
According to the Office Action, the disclosure at Column 6, lines 26-31 clearly teach "pre-reacting" the components prior to the addition of the rubber. Applicants submit this language clearly teaches "mixing" the components. In the preceding paragraph, Resendes also teaches that these components are mixed, for example, in a Banbury mixer or internal mixer. Applicants submit, if in fact the components were pre-reacted as asserted in the Office Action in such equipment, a high volatility situation is created and volatile components would be generated. And that any such "pre-reaction" would be incomplete due to the volatility of the components. However, the present invention addresses these health & safety concerns by truly "reacting" the components prior to the addition to the rubber compound. Again, Applicants stress "mixing" and "reacting" are two different processes. Clearly page 12 of the present invention discloses the reaction process which is further supported by the Examples. Such a reaction is not akin or equivalent to "mixing" components in an extruder.

Applicants submit that Resendes et al. fails to teach or suggest a process utilizing "pre-reacted" filler as claimed in the present invention. Thus, Resendes et al. fails to disclose each and every element of the pending claims, and fails to anticipate the current claimed invention. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance and notice to such effect is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this application, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone conference with the undersigned.

The USPTO is hereby authorized to charge any fees, including any fees for an extension of time or those under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 1.17, which may be required by this paper, and/or to credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-2527.

Respectfully submitted,

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